

4600 Giant Springs Rd. Great Falls, MT 59405 April 25, 2017

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to notify you that a decision has been made regarding a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed grazing lease renewal on a portion of the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area (BTWMA). My decision is to move forward with the proposed action. The lease will allow the removal of current vegetation by grazing livestock as a management tool to enhance the subsequent availability and palatability of fall and spring forage on that portion of the BTWMA described in the Environmental Assessment and Draft Grazing Management Plan.

No modifications were made in the documents you received/reviewed after the public review period. Please consider your previous copies of the Environmental Assessment and Draft Management Plan along with the stipulations of this Decision Notice as final.

Comments received regarding the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area Proposal are summarized in the enclosed Decision Notice. It is my recommendation to move forward with the proposed grazing lease renewal on the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area specific to the Polloch Meadows and Upper Cottonwood Creek areas.

Thank you very much for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

Gary Bertellotti

Regional Supervisor

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Great Falls, MT 59405

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DECISION

Utilizing the Environmental Analysis, Management Plan and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP that addresses the interests and issues identified for this proposed project. Given results of FWP's analysis coupled with the nature of the public comment, acceptance of this grazing proposal on the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area is warranted. After review of this proposal and the corresponding public support and comment, it is my recommendation that FWP proceed with the grazing lease renewal as described on the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area.

Signed,

Gary Bertellotti Regional Supervisor

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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BTWMA Grazing Proposal Environmental Assessment Decision Notice Mailing List George Donnelly – Helena

Russell Country Sportsmen Association – John Borgreen

Randy Knowles - Great Falls